



March 2008

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# Health Centers Train Teens to Teach Their Peers About Safe Sex

By Stacey Palevsky

When Joanna Scott was just 15 years-old she took two buses to get to her health clinic of choice. Her trek began in Bayview-Hunters Point, where she'd board the Number

neighborhood clinic's long lines. Or saved herself the transportation hassle by seeing her family doctor. But he also treats her mom, and, according to Scott, that would just be weird. So she took multiple buses



Photo by Maria Claudia Guerrero Rosas  
Art-based sex education at Planned Parenthood's Promotores program.

44 bus. She'd get off at Silver and Charter Oak avenues, transfer to the Number Nine, and take that bus to her final location, New Generations Health Center, located near Potrero Avenue and 18th Street.

Scott could have waited in her

to Potrero; when she got her license she drove to the Center, who's slogan, "answers not attitude," made her feel comfortable.

Now 18 years-old, Scott looks like she just stepped out of a Kanye

Continued on Page 16

# Potrero Hill and Dogpatch Condominiums Attract Buyers

By Kerry Fleisher

Young urban professionals, empty nesters and families in the market for their first San Francisco home are often torn between the quaintness of a Victorian and the efficiency of a new condominium. Condominium developers in Potrero Hill are banking on a historic-cum-modern approach that works both these angles, and the strategy seems to be working. Sales at Homes on Esprit Park in Dogpatch, a development created out of two historic brick-and-timber buildings; and The Potrero, situated on the cusp of old and new Potrero Hill near Showplace Square, are meeting—if not exceeding—company expectations.

Homes on Esprit Park, which is bounded by Minnesota, 22nd, and Indiana streets and Esprit Park, has 15 homes under contract and 14 reservations, even though construction is still underway. The model homes are slated for completion in approximately one month, with the entire project, which consists of 142 units as well as commercial space,

scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The Potrero, bounded by Mariposa, Rhode Island, 17th, and Kansas streets, has sold 75 percent of its 165 units.

Homes on Esprit Park, which features a variety of units—from one-bedrooms selling for almost \$600,000 to three-bedrooms at roughly \$1.5 million—has experienced steady sales within months of going on the market. Sales Associate Andrew Paolucci noted that contracts and reservations have been signed for both one- and two-bedroom units as well as for several commercial spaces. The average residential sales price is \$802,000; buyers include young families and urban professionals, several of whom are restaurateurs and artists.

The Potrero has also successfully catered to new couples, a mix of educated professionals who work downtown and in the South Bay. According to Caroline Anza with the Mark Company, The Potrero's marketing arm, "we've had really strong traffic that exceeds expectations." Whole Foods Market's

Continued on Page 17

# Lead Backpacks

By Heather World

Add backpacks, vinyl raincoats and school-issued bookbags to the growing list of children's products contaminated with lead, a substance proven harmful to human health, especially to the young.

The findings come not from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the federal agency charged with protecting Americans from hazardous products. Instead, it was consumer watchdog the Center for Environmental Health (CEH) that tested four backpacks with popular characters like Dora the Explorer and found lead levels of

up to 9,100 parts per million (ppm), more than 15 times the legal limit of 600 ppm for lead in paint.

A mom discovered the high concentrations of lead and phthalates, another harmful compound that's used to make plastic more flexible, in her son's school-issued ABC Book Program bookbag, which is provided as part of the Take Home Book Program that caters to San Francisco's kindergarteners, first, and second graders.

Exposure to lead, a naturally occurring element that's a reliable stabilizer for vinyl, can retard the

Continued on Page 15

## INSIDE

Nabe Senior  
Lunch



4

SF  
School of  
Digital  
Filmmaking

6



Preschool  
Fundraiser

11



A&E

20



# Publisher's View Governance

By Steven J. Moss

Many of us viewed last month's primary as the beginning of the end of what we considered to be a reign of terror. Lies that led to an unnecessary war; the reduction of public discourse to mono-syllabic grunts; and a stubborn refusal to engage with the world encouraged us to turn our backs on national politics in the hopes that it would just go away. And it did. Over the past seven years there's been a steady deflation of the federal government's domestic role. Washington proved itself unwilling to effectively respond to Hurricane Katrina-size domestic humanitarian crises, reform federal health care programs, or come to grips with the emergence of a new era of global environmental problems.

Federal withdrawal from critical public problems didn't make those problems go away. Americans continue to get sick without adequate health insurance, and to grapple with \$3.50 a gallon gasoline prices. Many state and local governments, including California and San Francisco, felt obligated to step in to the breach, taking on national, and even international, problems. California adopted huge subsidy programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy, and passed legislation to address global climate change. The City and County of San Francisco developed the capacity to

recycle more than half of its waste; and created a publicly-financed health care insurance program for residents.

But while municipal efforts to do the right thing are laudable, they can shift attention away from investing in and managing local government's core functions. While San Francisco tackled global climate change and health care policy, infrastructure deteriorated, schools languished, land use decisions were haphazardly made, and crime rates remained unacceptably high. Cities, even rich ones like San Francisco, simply don't have the resources to address what have historically, and appropriately, been treated as national problems.

Whichever candidate emerges from the Democratic National Convention to make the final dash to the presidency should forcefully lead us towards a resolution of the Iraq War, the creation of a viable health care system, and an improved standing in the world. But just as importantly they should return the federal government back in its proper role. It's fine for a mayor or supervisor to have an opinion about matters of national importance. But they shouldn't have to act on those views. Better that they spend their time focusing on issues that no one else will pay attention to, like fixing potholes.

## Editorial Error

The last sentence of Tony Kelly's January Letter to the Editor was incorrectly edited by the *View*. The *View* regrets this error. It should have read:

The fact that someone can work for a developer and still be positively engaged in the Potrero Hill community seems to be impossible to Ms. Anding and Ms. Askenazy [December Letters to the Editor]; that prejudice is simply a failure of their own thinking and an insult to anyone on the Hill who works as a contractor, carpenter, architect, or realtor, among many others.

Need to get something off your chest? Write us: [editor@potreroview.net](mailto:editor@potreroview.net).



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**Sailed Away**

The **S.S. Independence**, which was the subject of a front page story in the *View* last month, left Pier 70 for what might be its final voyage less than two weeks after the paper hit the streets. The historic ocean liner, which had been re-christened the **Oceanic**, was towed out of the Bay and into an unknown future. Its destination was listed as **Singapore**, but it's more likely that the 57-year old vessel was headed for the scrap yards of India or Bangladesh. The ship's disappearance isn't exactly like the sinking of the **Titanic**, but she'll be missed by those of us who looked forward to the sight of her flower-decked smoke stacks as we crested eastward down Potrero's hills.

**Other Comings and Goings**

Serving sushi, sake, and small plates, **Umi** opened last month for dinner across the street from **Farley's Café**. And **Visage Studio** opened upstairs from the *View's* offices in Dogpatch. Visage provides oxygen treatments, facials, and other body-centric pamperings. Sushi and high-end salons seem to be San Francisco's indicators that a neighborhood has moved on up... **M&M Market** at DeHaro and 23rd streets now has an onsite baker: Hill resident **Mercedes Ferreira** of **For Goodness Cakes** will make reportedly scrumptious cakes to order... **Sega of America**, makers of "The House of the Dead," "Sega Bass Fishing," and other games is moving from its

# Short Cuts

650 Townsend Street location to 350 Rhode Island Street. Interestingly, the Rhode Island Street building is listed as being prime for "biomedical research, pharmaceutical, and research and development." Will the next generation of **Sega** games include genetically-created Mario's and Sonics? Stay tuned...

**The People Have Spoken**

More than half of San Francisco's Democratic Party primary voters chose **Barack Obama** as their preferred presidential candidate last month, which is a little confusing. Doesn't San Francisco always vote for the inspirational, but ultimately loser, candidate? Is it possible that the rest of the country sees presidential politics the same way we do? Perhaps the Obama vote is balanced by the majority of Republican Party San Franciscans' selecting **John McCain**, who, bless his erratic, impatient, angry soul will be the aforementioned loser candidate, no matter who runs against him... At 65 percent Potrero Hill's turnout was impressively higher than the City as a whole's 60 percent, Bayview-Hunters Point's 46 percent, and South-of-Market's 54 percent.

**De Haro Street Speedway**

Kansas and De Haro Street residents are complaining that their avenues have become speedways, with cars, taxis, and trucks whizzing

by at excessive miles per hour. The racing could be part of the Hill's transformation from a sleepy village inhabited by artists, working class stiffs who walked to nearby industries, and semi-employed writers to a commuter node. Either way, the traffic is endangering parents strolling their babies and pedestrians trying to make their way around the neighborhood. In response San Francisco's **Municipal Transportation Agency** is studying ways to "calm" traffic down in the community. In the meantime, slow down.

**New Developments**

Community leaders, concerned about the possibility of a deluge of soulless office and biotech-infested buildings, are looking to increase citizen participation in ongoing Planning Department efforts to rezone large portions of Southeast San Francisco. Goat Hill Pizza owner **Philip De Andrade** thinks that the *Eastern Neighborhood Final Draft Area Plans* is "lifeblood stuff. We've been through the dot.com boom and bust cycle, and biotech will come and go. What we need to do is make sure we build a community." According to Potrero Booster Neighborhood Association President **Tony Kelly**, "We've got the College of Arts and Crafts, Culinary Academy, and University of California, Mission Bay" to name a few of Potrero's educational institutions. "We should be thinking of ourselves as a campus community, with all of the services and amenities that go with it." The Hill is going to change; let's make sure it's for the better.

**Uncivil City**

Grumblings about former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani-like crack-downs on what might be classified as lifestyle crimes by the City and County of San Francisco – or simply trying to get by in a complicated world – are growing louder. One middle-class gent taking the Third Street line from Downtown San Francisco was ticketed by Muni for forgetting to keep his receipt; he now faces up to a \$500 fine for a \$1.50 ride. Rhode Island Street residents have been warned about their garbage cans being visible, and

are being told to build an enclosure for them or face up to \$300 in fines. We're being treated as if we live in a gated community, except without clean and well-paved streets, plenty of crime, and little greenery. Most San Franciscans occasionally think about moving elsewhere, driven out by high housing costs and low-performing schools. Constant harassment by local government doesn't help maintain the love... On the brighter side, one long-time Potrero Hill resident, who installed two water saving toilets in her four-unit building, said that the customer service she received from the **San Francisco Public Utility Commission**'s water department was "Nordstrom quality."

**Rohbed at Gunpoint**

Yet another Potrero Hill resident called the *View* last month to report that he was robbed at gunpoint in his garage next to **Connecticut Yankee Bar & Restaurant**, in this case by three African-American males dressed in "gangster" attire. The mini-gang also mugged a woman neighbor who was parking her car. They did not, as far as we know, leave their unsightly garbage cans in front of their home, or avoid paying their buck fifty to ride Muni (see above), but armed robbery has been known to be a gateway to these types of nefarious activities.

**Shit Happens**

Speaking of lifestyle crimes, more than one Southeast San Francisco resident is complaining about public defecation, though it's mostly been spotted in flatter neighborhoods, such as in the Tenderloin. A former City librarian and community member even reported that the daily feat of biology occurred not infrequently in the Main Library's stacks, and not always in the science section. The need to publicly execute number two is both disgusting and sad. Perhaps those who can't hold it need more than complex street toilets to relieve themselves. One solution would be to require businesses of a certain size to designate public toilets, with perhaps the City paying for the associated clean-up and maintenance.

*Got news? We're all ears, or eyes, as the case may be: editor@potreroview.net.*

Back: Rick Laska, IT; John Ellis, L.Ac.; Frank Gilson, D.C.; Mike Gilson, IT  
Front: Fabiola Garcia, Manager; Jackie Mendoza, Manager

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# Senior Lunch Program a Long-Standing Community Hit

By Kerry Fleisher

Project Open Hand staff member Dolores Maghari quickly moves through the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House – known locally as the “Nabe” – distributing green salads. Today’s senior lunch menu is savory roast turkey with sage gravy and Maghari, along with a handful of volunteers in sharp little chef hats, must start scooping and plopping the candied yam beside the peas and pearl onions on dozens of plates. After six years working for Project Open Hand, a government-funded food program for seniors, Maghari knows that the candied yam will be a surefire crowd pleaser with some regulars.

Candied or not, the diners are a dedicated lot. “I come every day, no matter what the food is,” said Jess Mavon, a regular attendee at the Senior Lunch Program, or “Senior Nutrition Project,” one of the Nabe’s longest-running community programs. Like many of his senior peers, Mavon takes the 53 bus to a quiet back room to feast on his virtually free meal, almost every week day, from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A sign posted at the front of the room requests a modest dollar donation and a signature in exchange for a sumptuous plate of food. Julie Wasem, Project Open Hand’s Director of Senior Services, says that the government requires signatures for reimbursement purposes. Project Open Hand was launched more than two decades ago as a pro bono service that provided people living with HIV/AIDS with free meals, and

eventually expanded to serve seniors and homebound citizens.

“The program is basically run by them [the seniors], we just facilitate their needs,” said Edward Hatter, the Nabe’s Director. “Project Open Hand is very flexible across the board, the staff is well-trained and the volunteers are real troopers.”

Project Open Hand took over the Senior Lunch Program in 1998, which had previously been sponsored by the Salvation Army. Many seniors recall the Salvation Army era, which was, according to one senior, “Just as good. The food has always been good here.”

As in any dining hall or restaurant, conversation frequently comes along with the food. One gentleman is pronouncing on Olivia Hussey, the actress who played Juliet in Zeffirelli’s 1968 version of *Romeo and Juliet*, and who had appeared at the Castro Theater on Valentine’s Day. “Did you know she was married to Dean Martin?” someone quipped. “No way!” said another. This table, according to an anonymous source, is known for its “lively conversation.” The lunch companions often argue, but they unanimously agree about one thing: “The food is delicious.”

Whether feasting on baked herb salmon, thyme roasted chicken or pork chop with rosemary gravy, the quality of the food is as consistent as the seniors’ desire to watch game shows on television while they eat. “They always request a game show,” said Maghari, with a quick, ephemeral smile. And the seniors often request Maghari. As she quickly cuts chocolate cake into

prodigious chunks, she’s blissfully unaware that the seniors have a similar surprise in store. They have prepared a going-away party for her, to celebrate her recent citizenship and to wish her farewell on her one month vacation.

Other tables near the television are more subdued, with women sporting mesh hats curled over the green vinyl tablecloths, patiently working through their meal. There are several empty chairs scattered about the tables. “We need more people,” said one senior. Hatter agreed. “Our population has dwindled with the younger generations moving to the Hill,” he said.

Hatter noted that early morning activities have been a great way to get seniors into the building and increase lunch participation, particularly

since senior citizens are early risers. He’s tried to arrange a Tai Chi class for seniors in the mornings, and a senior development program runs simultaneously in the auditorium during lunch hours. The word on the street is that early-morning bingo draws the big crowds.

For many, the lunch provided by Project Open Hand is incentive enough to come to the Nabe. Project Open Hand serves two vegetables, milk, and fruit at every meal. After the menu is approved by a dietitian, a pamphlet with nutritional facts is developed and distributed. While many of the diners appreciate the program’s health benefits, others are attracted for less scientifically-based reasons. “I come because the food is made with love,” said one senior as he strolled out the door.



Photos by Rebecca Wilkowski

# The Curbside Ethicist

Q: Last month during the rain storms I was driving down the street and at an intersection I saw a dog sitting outside alone and wet in the tiny front yard of a house. The animal obviously belonged to someone, but I don't believe that this poor dog should have been allowed to sit out in the rain alone. The dog could get sick, and looked very unhappy; s/he deserves better treatment. But if I called and had the dog sent to animal control would s/he be in a better place? What should I have done: call the City and have them pick-up the dog, or hope the poor dog's owner takes better care of him/her in the future?

A: You're right to be concerned about the dog's welfare; dogs depend on us to care for them. You can report the dog owner, or the address where you spotted him/her, to San Francisco Animal Care and Control. They'll send an officer to investigate. Animal abuse or neglect can result in a warning citation, fine or having the animal seized. In any case, there's little downside to having the owner notified that people are concerned about the animal.

Q: You may have read about Oscar Pistorius, a 21-year-old track and field athlete from South Africa. He's internationally competitive in the 100, 200 and 400-meter races, and placed second in the 400 meters in an international competition (Golden Gala) in Rome in 2007. Yet he was recently barred from participating in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. He's not been accused of using steroids or other performance enhancing drugs. Quite the opposite: Pistorius is a double amputee. Due to a birth defect he had both his legs from just below the knee removed when he was a child. He wears a carbon fiber blade on each leg which simulates the human lower leg and allows him to run very fast. The international athletic body governing the Olympics ruled him ineligible,

arguing that the prosthetic gave him too great an advantage over other racers. This seems wrong. Pistorius is competitive but not dominant in a way that suggests he has a clear advantage over persons who have the use of their full legs. It strikes me as a great disservice to the Olympic spirit to bar him from participating, should he in fact qualify for his country's team. What do you think?

A: While Pistorius may present a unique case now, he's probably the leading edge of the future. As artificial limb technology improves, amputees and others missing limbs will have access to a full range of mobility. Events like the Paralympics were created to enable athletes with disabilities to compete on an even playing field with one another. Pistorius, however, prefers to compete with able-bodied athletes. He's trained and participated in races just like other world class athletes. His right to compete wasn't challenged until it became apparent that he had a good chance of making South Africa's Olympic team. We have to question why this is the case. Critics say that Pistorius' artificial limbs give him an unfair advantage when compared to human limbs. This is an apples to oranges comparison. Even though tests demonstrate that Pistorius' blades have the capacity to give him an advantage, without his accompanying talent they are just blades. Pistorius' amazing ability comes by way of his brain, his hours of training and his awe-inspiring strength of will to overcome his disability. Pistorius should be allowed to compete in the Olympics. And we should rethink our stereotypes of what's "natural" about athletes.

*The Curbside Ethicist specializes in solving ethical dilemmas. Readers are encouraged to seek guidance from their own religious or philosophical counselors to solve knotty problems, and are invited to send the View their questions, comments, and disagreements about this column: editor@potreroview.net.*



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# Lights, Camera, Learn

By Tom Donald

Stephen Kopels and Jeremiah Birnbaum, co-founders of the San Francisco School of Digital Filmmaking (SFSDF), may seem unlikely partners. There's a 20-year age difference between the two, and they have completely different tastes in films. But on the subject of SFSDF, and on teaching filmmaking in general, Kopels and Birnbaum are in complete agreement.

Kopels and Birnbaum launched SFSDF three years ago in an industrial space located in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood. Their dream was to establish a school in which students would not simply learn about films, but make films. Real films, not "let's shoot 20 minutes of the fire hydrant and watch how the light changes" films. Since the first class in 2005, SFSDF students have completed narratives, documentaries and even commercials. The school's best-known film may be *Presque Isle*, directed by local legend Rob Nilsson, which premiered last fall at the Mill Valley Film Festival. The film, which is set in Nilsson's childhood home of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, "touches on themes of memory, human suffering, and family reconciliation." Two new films created by SFSDF students, *Moonlight Sonata* and *Around June*, are to be released soon.

SFSDF students work on films done by professionals and make their own movies, almost from the moment they begin class. It's "learning by doing," and as Kopels hastens to add, by "re-doing," that characterizes the school's one-year, project-based curriculum. Class sizes have been

kept deliberately small so that a closer bond can form between teacher and student. For Birnbaum, constant constructive criticism is a key component of the learning process. "It's the only way to learn; to find out why certain choices work, and others don't."

SFSDF's faculty is comprised of award-winning professionals in every aspect of the industry, including directors, producers, camera people, editors and writers. According to Kopels, "Nearly all of our instructors are working full-time in the industry, so they've faced all of the dilemmas our students are confronted with."

SFSDF's Third Street facility houses a large, professionally-equipped sound stage. Students have access to high-definition cameras and edit on state of the art Final Cut Pro systems. "We're trying to make the environment here as close as possible to what our students will encounter when they graduate and get jobs in the business," said Kopels. The school works to place students in the film industry after they graduate, and nothing pleases the co-founders more than to hear from alumni who've gone on to work on big projects after leaving SFSDF. "We want a school that's an incubator of new talent, fresh ideas and exciting projects. SFSDF is our vision, but in truth, the school belongs to the students," said Birnbaum.

For more information about SFSDF check-out [www.sfdigifilm.com](http://www.sfdigifilm.com). Tom Donald is a film director who lives with his wife Mitzi Ngim on Potrero Hill's outer reaches.



Jeremiah Birnbaum.



Stephen Kopels.

Photos by Tom Donald

# Presidio Heights Synagogue Parts the South-of-Market Sea

By Jim Van Buskirk

"*Shabbat Shalom* - Good Sabbath!" The warm greeting was especially appreciated on a cold, wet evening on the last Friday in January. The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House's (Nabe) fluorescent-lit basketball court may not be as grand as Temple Emanu-El's massive Lake Street synagogue, but the 20 or so families that trickled into the space didn't seem to mind. Despite the rainy weather they came to celebrate the Jewish Sabbath as part of the synagogue's effort to serve families with young children in the South-of-Market area. SOMAnu-El, as it's cleverly called, is one of several Emanu-El programs funded by a grant from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund.

Molly Schneider, Emanu-El's Director of Young Adult Services, welcomed families as she passed out copies of the *siddur*, the prayer book used during the music-filled 45-minute service. The unprepossessing space, filled with folding chairs and lacking even a semblance of traditional religious trappings, was the result of a scheduling mishap. Services, which attract upwards of 60 families, are usually held upstairs in the Nabe's larger room with a view. Referring to the basketball court venue, the Rabbi quipped that if it takes 10 people to make a *minyan*, or quorum, two basketball teams are five plus five.

On this night, umbrellas, parkas and other rain gear were quickly discarded as children situated themselves on laps, chairs or the floor. "*Shabbat Shalom*," welcomed Rabbi Sydney Mintz, casually dressed with a winter scarf draped around her neck in lieu of the traditional *tallit* prayer shawl. With her relaxed demeanor and expressive face, she obviously enjoys her role leading the casual services, charming the audience with her humor.

She was joined by musician

Marsha Attie, whose richly melodious voice was a delight both a capell and when accompanying herself on guitar. Looking and sounding a little like Joan Baez, Attie translated Yiddish and Hebrew lyrics into English and acted out songs with imaginative hand gestures. Adults and kids happily joined in: clapping, singing, and swaying. Parents lifted babies in time to the music. Children - occasionally crying or banging or running around - only added to the joyous energy that quickly filled the room. Young ones were surreptitiously slipped snacks or bottles.

Rabbi Mintz demonstrated her storytelling skills with a cautionary tale about a poor family in Bialystok, Poland who bought a mirror that wrecked havoc on their lives. The tale, of course, had a happy ending. The children were invited to help light the *Shabbat* candles, offered percussion instruments to accompany the songs, and were engaged throughout the proceedings. The service ended with *motzi* (the blessing over challah, the traditional braided bread), and *kiddish* (the blessing recited over wine; in this case grape juice). It seemed over too quickly, obviously catering to the short attention spans of the kids, as well as some of the adults. At the *oneg* reception afterward, kids and adults enjoyed more *challah*, juice, and chocolate chip cookies before venturing back into the rain. Even the heavens were impressed; it might have only been my imagination but the downpour seemed to have lessened a little by the time we left.

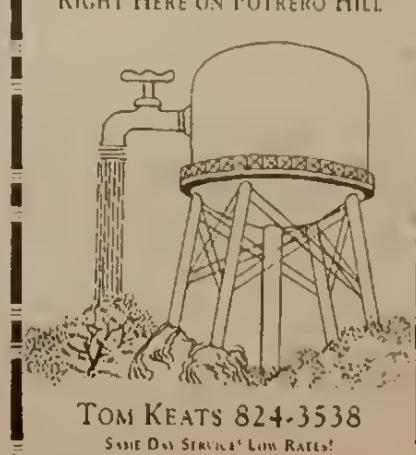
SOMAnu-El may eventually be held in another space, as well as possibly include a Shabbat dinner in conjunction with the service; refer to their website [www.emanuelsf.org](http://www.emanuelsf.org) for updated information. For now the 6 p.m. service takes place every fourth Friday evening at the Nabe, 953 De Haro Street at Southern Heights Street.

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**TOM'S PLUMBING**  
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# Firefighters Ward-Off Fires, Industrial Accidents, and Leaky Faucets

By Kerry Fleisher

A rash of fires and workplace accidents in Southeast San Francisco over the past two months has heightened residents' concerns about the potential dangers associated with living in highly-combustible wooden structures in the midst of the City's most industrialized areas. Fire destroyed a Minnesota Street home, an explosion at the site of the former Hunters Point Power Plant caused the death of a Pacific Gas and Electric Company employee, and an industrial crane fell into the Bay at a shipyard located at Illinois and 20th Street. Yet while Potrero Hill's firefighters were called to these scenes, when asked about their recent recollections they focused on the plethora of leaky faucets caused by this year's rainy weather.

"We were out all day fixing pipes and leaks at the end of January," said firefighter Cantrez Triplett, shaking her head. "That was one of the most exhausting weeks this year."

San Franciscans may be surprised to learn that firefighters are on call 24-hours a day for more than just house fires. Since teaming-up with the Department of Health roughly a decade ago, San Francisco firefighters

are required to become trained paramedics whose responsibilities run the gamut from health emergencies, single alarm fires, and water leaks. "I've even potty trained boys on the Hill," said one smiling firefighter. "Maybe my proudest moment."

The firefighters average five calls a day, and prefer more activity to a quiet day in the station. "We like to be busy" said firefighter Jack Forbes. The firefighters stationed at 22th and Wisconsin streets are responsible for the area bound by Potrero Avenue, 17th and Cesar Chavez streets and the Bay. In the event of a fire, their comrades stationed at 16th and Vermont streets and Third and Cargo Way (who they refer to as "the flatlanders") are dispatched to the scene.

Even when the sirens aren't wailing, the firefighters watch-out for their neighbors. "The nearby neighbors really appreciate us," said Triplett. "We are their eyes and ears. When someone sketchy seems to be lingering nearby, we inform them immediately and they always appreciate that."

On quieter days, firefighters on the Hill make their rounds of inspections, and often have to

rely on their previous job training to problem-solve neighborhood debacles. Gillian Lucier, a firefighter stationed on the Hill, recalls having to chainsaw a wedge between two buildings to release a trapped cat. "Lots of firefighters bring tools from old trades to this industry," she said. Firefighters on the Hill were in unanimous agreement that chainsaws—contrary to popular belief—are the most versatile, useful gadget for firefighters.

Nights on the Hill may be revered for their peace and quiet by residents, but not so for firefighters. Potrero firefighters say that the Hill is more night-prone than other neighborhoods. "The night calls seem to ebb and flow depending on the time of year," said firefighter Kevin Garry. Cold weather also brings its own set of trials and tribulations. During the post-Christmas season, mischievous teenagers take to burning dead trees parked on the street for fun. "Dry trees are like matches," said Garry.



A series of fires and industrial accidents, marked above, struck the Potrero Hill and Bayview neighborhoods in early 2008.



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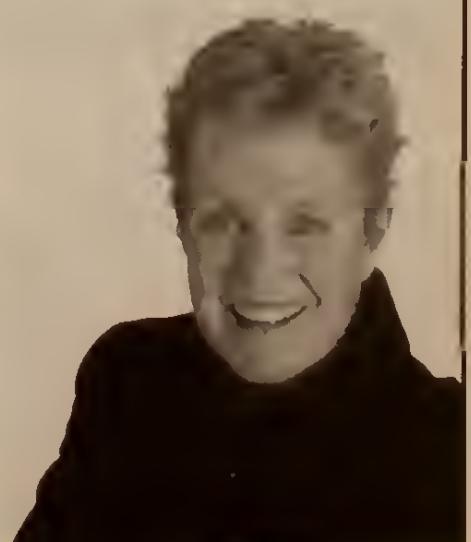
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# Food Pantry Launched At International Studies Academy

By Kerry Fleisher

Last month International Studies Academy (ISA), located on De Haro Street, launched San Francisco's first peer-to-peer food pantry. The program, which is co-sponsored by The Food Pantry and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe), puts students in charge of distributing nutritious groceries to roughly 80 of their peers.

Sara Miles, The Food Pantry's director and founder, said that the goal of the ISA program is to provide food to needy students once or twice a month. As with the popular food pantry at St. Gregory's of Nyssa Episcopal Church across the street, which is also run by The Food Pantry, the San Francisco Food Bank provides groceries at pennies a pound.

Edward Hatter, the Nabe's Director and co-founder of the unique program, said he hopes that the

pantry will increase access to food, encourage students to take control of their diets, and educate participants on how to shop for a well-rounded meal. "I noticed students would come to the Nabe after school without eating lunch or breakfast. They were starving. That's where the idea for this program came from," he said. In the future, The Food Pantry and the Nabe plan to bring in students and faculty from the nearby California Culinary Academy to teach youth-friendly cooking classes.

The program hopes to enlist 10 student volunteers to organize groceries during the school's last period, and distribute them to their peers at the end of the day. The pantry's first day drummed up such enthusiasm that a traffic jam converged outside the campus, as students called their parents to pick up their food. The second food exchange proved a similar success, with all but five of the 1300 pounds provided by the Food Bank distributed to approximately 52 students.

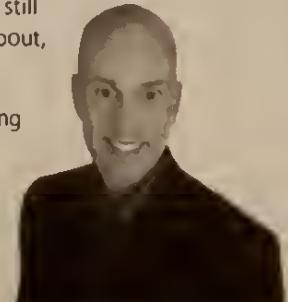
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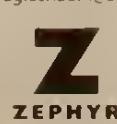
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# Funds Released to Improve Pedestrian and Child Passenger Safety

By Steven J. Moss

Prompted in part by a six percent increase in pedestrian-related injuries from 2006 to 2007, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) recently distributed almost \$400,000 in state-funded grants to community-based nonprofits to help reduce child automobile passenger injuries. Local grantees include San Francisco General Hospital's (SF General) Family Health and Women's Health centers, located at 1001 Potrero Avenue; Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting Program, which has offices at 2730 Bryant Street; and Potrero Hill Family Resource Center's Economic Opportunity Council, located at 1426 Fillmore Street. The Women's Health Center received its third consecutive grant for the quality work they've conducted educating caregivers on child passenger safety.

The grant program is part of a citywide campaign to reduce child passenger injuries and fatalities among low-income and minority communities. The need for the campaign was originally based on data from the trauma registry at SF General, the City's only Level One Trauma Center, which indicated that all of the children who suffered severe injuries from car crashes in

2004 were from Hispanic, African-American, and Asian communities.

According to a 2006 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration study, up to 83 percent of children less than 12 years-old are not properly restrained while riding in a vehicle. An observational study conducted last Fall by four San Francisco-based community organizations found that more than seven percent of children under the age of six years-old, and 20 percent of seven and eight year-olds, rode in the vehicles' front seat; with six percent of children in this age group riding without seatbelts.

"We have learned that standard safety messages don't get through to stressed communities: low-income communities, communities of color, those whose first language is not English, and recent immigrants and refugees. These require specific targeted outreach to help educate and assist caregivers to properly secure children in motor vehicles," said Michael Radetsky, DPH's Injury Prevention Coordinator. "This campaign endeavors to ensure that every San Franciscan caregiver knows how to keep children safe in cars."

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# New Kids

By Stacey Bartlett

Jordan turns four on March 22; Mom Tricia & Dad Doug wish her a happy birthday and much love.

Ethan Geis, son of Matt Geis and Sandy Groom, celebrated his third birthday on February 3.

Welcome to Sienna Grace Ault, who held her world premiere on January 21 at 7 pounds, eight ounces. She joins big brother Julian, 16 months, and her proud sleep-deprived parents, Roberta and Harry Ault.

John, Victoria and big sister Claire welcomed Sean Wallace Offenhartz to Potrero Hill on January 18.



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March 19 **Peace Vigil on Great Steps of Grace Cathedral**  
A Remembrance of All the Dead on the 5th anniversary of the War in Iraq

March 20 **Maundy Thursday** 7 P.M.

March 21 **Good Friday** Noon & 7 P.M.

March 22 **Holy Saturday**  
Morning Prayer 9 A.M.

March 22 **Great Vigil of Easter** 9 P.M.

March 23 **Easter Sunday**  
Choral Eucharist 11 A.M.  
Childcare from 9:45 A.M.



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By David Matsuda

Greetings from Iraq, where after the first snow in centuries winter has arrived. The ground in our part of Baghdad consists of dust-laden hard-packed clay that seeps oil. The clay-oil mixture, or "cloil," keeps rain water from being absorbed into the ground. Runoff forms puddles and mixes with the dust, creating a wicked mud with enough suction to pull off fully laced Army boots.

It's early morning, and yours truly, mud soaked boots and all, is riding in an armored convoy. Just a few days ago several Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) damaged vehicles and wounded soldiers. The threat level is high, and our column is arrayed in defensive positions.

We wend our way along Sadr City's outskirts, past bullet riddled buildings, through lakes of backed-up sewer water, and finally onto the rutted dirt streets of one of the many shanty towns that surround Baghdad. Our column comes to a halt outside a firehouse. Soldiers set-up a perimeter guard, and Iraqi doctors prepare to conduct a MEDOP, or medical operation, where outpatient services are provided to the poor and underserved. I have a bag of leftover Christmas candy for the children and lots of questions for those who're waiting in line for diagnosis, referrals and medicines. My interpreter and I distribute candy and question the shantytown residents.

Most are internally displaced persons (IDP) who fled violence in: Sadr City and Moqtada al-Sadr's Jaish al Mahdi militia; Karbala,

a shrine city south of Baghdad, where the Iranian backed Badr militia murdered and intimidated the population; and Diyala province to the north where al-Qae'da threats and torture chambers forced them from their homes.

The children range in age from five to 25. Most are marginally healthy and strikingly adorable; others are heartbreakingly sick and disfigured by birth defects and endemic illness. Lead pipes contaminate the drinking water and weaken young immune systems. Many adults are underemployed and earn the equivalent of \$1.75 per month. To compound matters, Moqtada al-Sadr has decreed that each family should have eight children: two to fight; two to take up the arms of their fallen brothers; two to take care of their parents, and; two to start new families to begin the cycle of violence again. The combination of over-population, poor housing – many shantytown residents live 10 to a ramshackle cardboard, sheet metal and cinder block structure without roofs or heat – and chronic unemployment leaves children malnourished and susceptible to illness.

In such conditions, Iraqis age quickly. By the time they're 40 years-old many shantytown residents have intestinal parasites, chronic arthritis, degenerative lung disease, and pulmonary conditions. They look three decades older than their

chronological age.

The MEDOP line is overwhelming and certain medicines are quickly in short supply. Sensing this, shantytown residents clamor for pills, capsules and liquids. Without diagnosis, the doctors randomly hand out whatever medicine is left. Illiterate shantytown residents complicate matters by bartering medicines amongst themselves and either misdiagnosing or self-medication with random doses.

As the MEDOP ends families ask me to have tea with them. I must remain attached to, and move-out with, the unit so I politely refuse.

Some residents run home and return with things for me to eat and drink. I'm as startled by their generosity as I am shocked by their poverty. One young boy pulls me towards his neighborhood and asks me to come to his house. With orders to move out ringing in my ears and tears welling in my eyes, I let go of his hand and wave goodbye from behind armor and bullet-proof glass as the convoy rolls out.

*Long-time Hill resident Dave Matsuda, Ph.D. is an anthropologist who's on leave from university teaching to help the U.S. Army with reconciliation efforts in Iraq. Email him at druncledave@comcast.net if you have questions, want to involve your school in a project, or to send a care package to a soldier.*



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Friends of Potrero Hill children get ready for the preschool's March fundraising gala (below). The Shut-Ins will play for the Friends of Potrero's Nursery Schools' Swing into Spring fundraiser (right). Photos by Amy Gregg.



A Benefit for Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School

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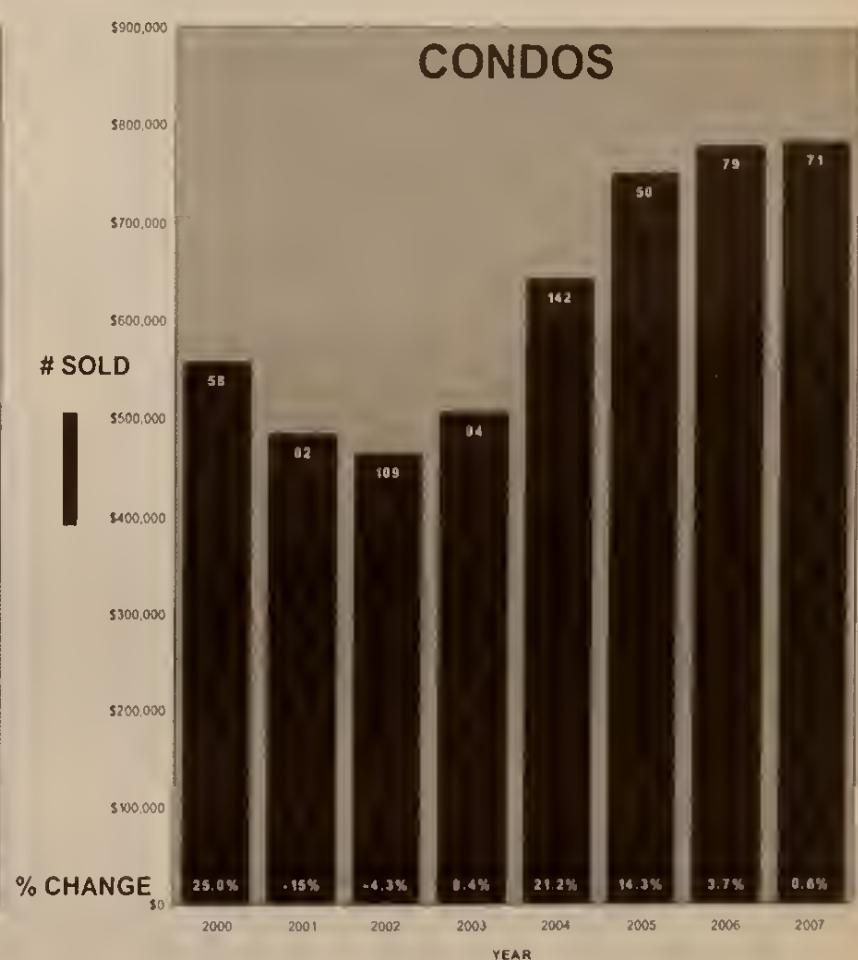
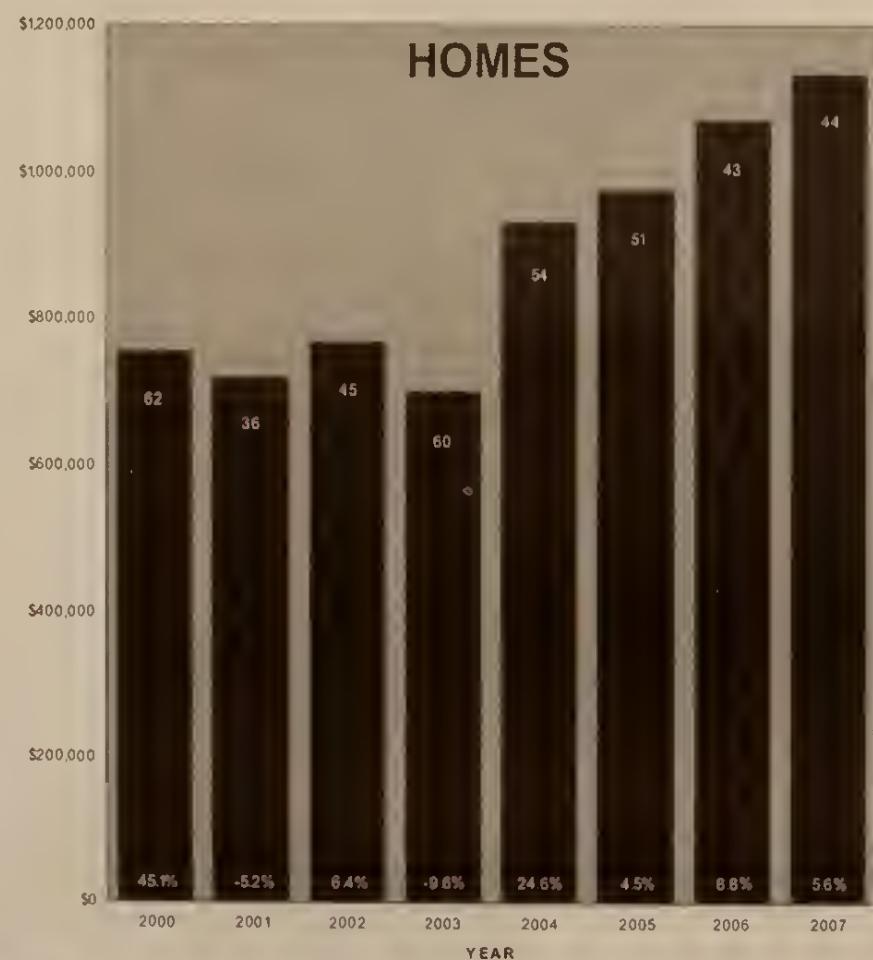
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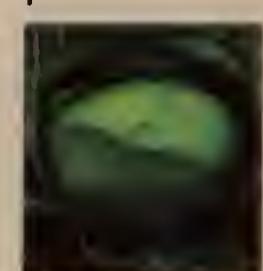
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– Janet J.



## Lead Backpacks

*Continued from Front Page*

growth of the central nervous system and brain, permanently damaging children's health. State and federal governments limit the amount of lead, as well as certain phthalates, that can be used in products. California's Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, requires manufacturers to warn buyers when toxic substances are present in their merchandise. Advocacy groups and individuals have used the law to sue manufacturers and distributors who don't comply.

Ellison Folk, the mother of an Alvarado Elementary School second-grader, smelled something odd—that new car smell—when she pulled her son's weekly reading bag out of his backpack late last year. "I took it out of the backpack and smelled it and said, 'Holey moley, that smells like phthalates!'" said Folk, an attorney at Shute, Mihaly and Weinberger, an environmental law firm. Folk sent the bag to a lab used by her firm to be tested: her son's newer version of the bag contained 4,800 ppms of lead. The phthalate reading came back at 2.9 percent DEHP—a phthalate that's been classified as a male reproductive toxin—nearly 30 times higher than the percentage allowed by San Francisco in certain toys for children under three. California adopted a similar ban that will go into effect next year.

Additional San Francisco Unified School District and CEH testing confirmed Folk's results, prompting the District to instruct school principals to pull the bags. Sample tests of older bags, used by kindergarteners and first graders, came back clear, said Gentle Blythe, the District's Public Outreach and Communications Director. Nonetheless, the District is not releasing the bags until it conducts additional tests. "We want to stay

on the side of caution," Blythe said. The District is asking schools to find alternative ways of sending the books home, and schools are devising their own solutions, she said. Meanwhile, the District is working with Silver Giving, the foundation that funds the program, to see if new safe bags can be substituted.

Last November CEH tests of a Disney-licensed "High School Musical" backpack found more than 13,000 ppm of lead; and tests of a vinyl "Mine Eat Trax" child's lunchbox from Office Depot indicated the product contained 2,500 ppm. The nonprofit also tested a Coleman-made rain poncho for youth, finding 17,500 ppm of lead, nearly 600 times the 30 ppm limit agreed to in a 2005 legal settlement with another poncho maker.

Just as it did when it found alarmingly high lead levels in children's lunchboxes in 2004, CEH initiated legal action against product manufacturers and retailers. Caroline Cox, CEH's Research Director, said the organization sent the required 60-day notice of a Proposition 65 violation, the first step towards a lawsuit, late last year. Attorneys for both sides are negotiating a possible settlement.

Cox is confident the two sides will come to an agreement. "That is definitely our intention and mostly we have success with that," she said. The 2004 threat of a lawsuit led many lunchbox manufacturers to voluntarily reformulate their products with less lead.

Folk has also found the threat of lawsuits to be an effective curb on lead-filled products. Given headlines about lead-laden toys, Folk was surprised to find the substance in school-issued bags. "I was kind of annoyed it took a parent who has a special expertise, when the company who is making these and selling them to the district should be responsible for insuring quality of its product," she said.

The bags' distributor, KL&P Marketing, was caught by surprise, said Jennifer Katz.

"We are talking with our suppliers to see what can be done," Katz said. "We want to do the right thing, absolutely." Meanwhile, the company continues to test its products and investigate the matter, she said.

Despite the media hoopla about lead toys, paint and dust remain the primary sources of lead poisoning for children, especially for families who live in old houses, said Neil Gendel, Project Director of the Healthy Children Organizing Project. "Younger kids are more likely to get exposed to lead dust in their homes than from lead toys; though exposure to any lead is not good," he said.

Gendel's organization works to protect young children in low-income and minority communities from preventable diseases caused by environmental hazards. He urges worried parents to have their children tested for lead poisoning, though he cautions about test kits sold in stores, saying they're only good for testing tableware. "Most doctors will say that 10 ppm is the bright line for concern, but if the Bush Administration had not forced the CDC to do otherwise, that bright line would be 5 ppm," he said.

Gendel hopes parents, the CEH and others will force retailers and manufacturers to only sell toxin-free toys and household cleaners, as well as safe personal care products for infants, toddlers and their mothers.

Meanwhile, public outcry has spurred Congress into action. At the

end of last year the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Consumer Product Safety Modernization Act, which calls for increased funding for a better-defined CPSC. The Senate will debate a similar bill later this year.

Despite repeated incidents of lead-containing children's products entering the United States, mostly from China, CPSC Acting Chairwoman Nancy Nord, a Bush Administration appointee, has said she doesn't want a bigger budget for fear of bloating the government. In response Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and other U.S. representatives have called for her resignation, claiming that the Commission has failed to protect the public. So far, Nord has refused to step down.

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## Safe Sex

Continued from Front Page

West video. Bubble gum pink plastic earrings dangle like fat tear drops from her lobes. They match her pink fitted T-shirt and accent her tight jeans. The Independence High School senior is shockingly honest, seemingly lacking any sort of internal filter. She talks openly about bodily fluids, a pregnancy scare, and condoms.

This tell-all attitude comes from what she's learned from New Generations' physicians and counselors, as well as her experience as a peer educator. Scott served as a volunteer educator for three years, and would still be involved if she hadn't become a legal adult, thereby aging out of the program. "Teens need more resources about sex, but they don't need it from, like, a teacher, who is not going to tell it to them straight, you know what I mean?" she said. "I can talk to students in a way that makes sense to them, and they'll know that I know what they're going through."

New Generations has trained 50 peer educators since 2004, through a partnership with Thurgood Marshall High School. It's one of several peer-to-peer health education programs located in Southeast San Francisco. Mission Neighborhood Health Center sponsors the decade-old Latinos en Extasis program, which relies on Hispanic teenagers to work nights and weekends to answer questions from their peers. Joanna, who preferred that her last name not be used, and who has Puerto Rican and El Salvadoran parents, spent three years as a peer educator for Latinos en Extasis. She hopes to work as a health educator full-time after she graduates from high school.

Good Samaritan Family Resource Center, located at 25th Street and Potrero Avenue, offers a small family planning clinic, which was created in 2000 thanks to a partnership with Planned Parenthood Golden Gate. Planned Parenthood also sponsors Promotores, a health education program that relies on Latino men, women, and teens to carry-out art-infused community education focusing on healthy living, sexuality and reproductive health services.

Many of the reproductive health programs available in Southeast San Francisco rely on peer educators to teach in formal settings—schools and clinics—and community hubs, like laundromats, where the educators reach hundreds of people through daily interaction and conversation.

Still, the clinics and their posses

of educators face an uphill challenge. "It's going to take a while until we really see a difference because the monster is so big—the monster being misinformation," said Luis Vasquez-Gomez, an artist and activist who helped design the Promotores training.

According to health educators, peer-to-peer initiatives are effective because adolescents tend to distrust adults. "Teens really listen to each other," said Tino Ratliff, a health educator at New Generations. Ratliff has worked with hundreds of middle- and high school students over the past half-decade, and has trained peer educators at Thurgood Marshall High School. "Almost always, they're more engaged when one of their peers is talking to them."

Almost half of all high school students have sex, according to a 2005 Centers for Disease Control (CDC) report. Yet studies indicate that one in four 15- to 17-year olds have never talked with a parent or guardian about how to say "no" to sex, about birth control, condoms or sexually transmitted diseases. "We live in a society and culture that limits the kind of information young people have and then expects them to make smart choices," said Elena Flores, Director of Latinos en Extasis at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center. Roughly a quarter of sexually active young adults ages 15- to 24-years old contracts a sexually transmitted infection (STI) each year, according to the CDC. The most common STI among young people are human papilloma virus and chlamydia.

"Sex is a big issue for teens, but a lot of them don't know what they're getting into," said Kenita, a Thurgood Marshall High School senior, who preferred that her last name not be used. "Teens don't have a lot of opportunities to talk about sex without being judged." Kenita sits on a stool next to her friend Andrew in a biology classroom. Andrew wants to know: can a girl get pregnant if she's raped?

No one laughs at the question, which the teen has asked quite sincerely. "Definitely," Ratliff answered. Every Thursday afternoon he trains Kenita and Andrew to be peer educators. "It's not like the sperm says, 'Oh, she's getting raped, let's not make her pregnant.'" Andrew nods and adjusts his black stocking cap. His jeans and white T-shirt are so big it looks like he borrowed them from a giant. He's the newest of New Generations' 15 peer educators. "This is good, I like

this," he said.

Ratliff hands him a parental permission slip to come back the following week. Once he completes the training, he'll join Kenita in making presentations to San Francisco middle- and high school students.

Promotores and Latinos en Extasis were designed to meet the needs of San Francisco's Hispanic community. Latinos are a typically underserved demographic with a high need: in California Hispanic adolescents are four times more likely to become parents as European-Americans, according to University of California, Davis researchers. Even in San Francisco, where the birth rate among girls ages 15 to 19-years old declined by 10 percent between 1995 and 2003, pregnancy rates among Hispanic girls remains higher than that of any other ethnic group. Research indicates that traditional outreach methods often fail with Hispanic teens and adults due to cultural and language barriers.

In an effort to overcome these barriers Promotores uses an arts-based curriculum, *Mi Cuerpo, Mi País* (my body, my country). Over a period of six weeks, participants learn about anatomy, STDs, HIV, contraception, and how to communicate with friends and family about sex. The program's ultimate goal is to teach personal responsibility and self-respect, and raise participants' self-esteem. "It's important to put everyone together because we want to push through the barriers and get them talking with each other," said Maria Claudia Guererro, who directs the program

for Planned Parenthood.

"There are so many laws in our community, and it's empowering for teens to create their own personal laws," adds Vasquez-Gomez. "They need to identify: this is who I want to be; this is who I am."

All the peer-to-peer education programs—New Generations, Mission Neighborhood Health Center and Good Samaritan/Planned Parenthood—are housed within family planning clinics. New Generations began in 1974 as a part of San Francisco General Hospital. The number of teens it served more than doubled in 1997, its first year in a separate location. The clinic now sees 2,500 teenage and young adult clients a year, a majority of whom live in low-income households located in the Mission District or Bayview-Hunter's Point, neighborhoods that have the City's highest teen pregnancy and STD rates.

Good Samaritan Family Resource Center's Planned Parenthood satellite clinic consists of two small second floor rooms: a counseling room and an exam room. Its entrance is marked by dozens of fliers and pamphlets containing information about pap smears, HIV, menstrual cramps and condoms; nonetheless, it's mostly indistinguishable from the other rooms in the narrow hallway. "No one walking by would know this is a family planning clinic, and that's part of our success," said Mario Paz, Center Director. "Teens need a safe environment. They need to not be afraid to ask questions so they can make healthy decisions."

## New! Grants Program of the UCSF University Community Partnerships Council 2008-2009

The UCSF University Community Partnerships Program and Council, in partnership with Tides Foundation, is offering grant funding to support projects that strengthen partnerships between the San Francisco community and the University.

**MANDATORY WORKSHOPS:** Applicants are required to attend a mandatory pre-submittal session. This workshop will clearly describe the program, explain the application process and answer any questions. RSVP to [partnerships@ucsf.edu](mailto:partnerships@ucsf.edu) or (415) 476-5589 by March 7, 2008.

**Tues., March 11, 2008** 6:00 p.m. 3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic  
5190 Third Street (@Thornton Avenue)  
San Francisco

**Wed., March 12, 2008** Noon  
Millberry Union, City Lights Room  
UCSF Parnassus Campus  
(500 Parnassus Avenue)

**Thurs., March 13, 2008** 5:00 p.m. Ida's Café, 1st floor, UCSF Center of Excellence in Women's Health, UCSF Mount Zion Campus (2356 Sutter Street)

Please visit [www.sf.ucsf.edu](http://www.sf.ucsf.edu) for more information and to apply. Application deadline is April 18, 2008.

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## Condos Continued from Front Page

opening last fall, which Anza described as a "positive amenity, a value-add," ushered in a fresh crop of prospective buyers. Mark Chow, The Potrero's sales manager, noted that one buyer "went in for broccoli at Whole Foods Market, and came out with a home in the \$900,000s."

Homes on Esprit Park and The Potrero are condominium developments with two quite distinct architectural frameworks, floor plans, and engineering scopes. Yet they both merge on one similar selling point: old meets new. Homes on Esprit Park, a project developed by Build Inc., an environmentally-minded real estate team composed of Doug Ross, Loring Sagan, and Lou Vasquez, converted what was originally the old Schilling Wine Cellars to blend with the Victorian aesthetics nearby. The team "merged the warmth of antique wood and masonry with the best of modern engineering," and have devoted several pages of their sales brochure to Dogpatch history.

The Potrero, which was built from scratch on the former S&E Ford site, also strived to capture the Hills' characteristics. Their brochure boasts, "It is a rare event indeed to find new construction in Old San Francisco." With two landscaped courtyards and state-of-the-art fitness center, their push-point is more about the modern amenities cushioned in the "eclectic" Potrero Hill surroundings than historic preservation. The Potrero's studios start in the \$400,000s, and their

three-bedrooms are priced at almost \$1 million.

Homes at Esprit Park has implemented one price drop since it went on the market, scaling down some of the one-bedrooms from the low \$600,000 to the high \$500,000s. Their penthouses, some of which overlook the Bay and boast 18-foot ceilings, have whipped up so much interest that prices have actually gone up.

Aiming to create a community feel amongst Homes on Esprit Park's eight buildings and two courtyards, Build Inc. placed several commercial spaces in the north building that faces the park. Those units have been sold to Nate Appleman, co-owner of the critically acclaimed A16 and SPQR restaurants. He'll be opening a 6,000 square foot restaurant capable of seating 130 people, alongside a rosticeria that will serve Italian food on-the-go.

While vetting the commercial space Appleman fell in love with the condominium complex and decided to buy a residential unit for his family, who will be moving from the Sunset. "I like the green aspect of the whole project, especially the use of recycled material," he said. Build Inc. reused or recycled more than 90 percent of the demolished material from the old winery for its new construction; they've also incorporated a water-efficient irrigation system, amongst other green-friendly touches. "There's no real room to grow except for that area in San Francisco," said Appleman of his choice to open a restaurant in the Dogpatch. "It's uncharted territory."

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# Police Blotter

Fraudulent Credit Card Use, Application, February 9, 8:00 a.m., 847 Kansas Street: Officer Obot and Field Training Officer Whitney responded to a call regarding a fraud. An individual told the officers that she found multiple fraudulent transactions on her online American Express (Amex) credit card account summary. She called Amex to report the fraudulent use and that her card had been stolen. Amex advised her that another card had been ordered in her name and delivered to a Bayview address. The officers advised the individual to contact her banks and credit card providers to let them know of the fraudulent activities. The case was reported to Police Operations for further investigation.

Vehicle Burglary, Tampering, February 9, 3:34 p.m., 26th and Kansas streets: Officers Martin and Festa were near the Potrero Hill Housing Development investigating reports of a subject going through a vehicle. The officers detained the suspect, who was wearing large, bulky clothing, and searched him. During the search a black and red ratchet tool/screwdriver and a car climate control AC/temperature radio panel and a radio faceplate, which fit exactly into the radio panel, dropped from the subject's clothing. Officers Cardenas and Malliaras arrived to assist and located a nearby Honda Civic with its window smashed. Officer Martin noted that the AC/temperature radio panel, which matched the one

found on the subject, was missing from the vehicle. Moments later, a witness to the crime arrived and told officers that she saw the subject break the window, rummage through the car and leave the area on foot. The witness was able to positively identify the suspect. Officer Martin unsuccessfully attempted to locate the vehicle's owner through police headquarters. The suspect was arrested and taken to Bayview Station without further incident.

Cocaine Possession, Warrant Arrest, February 10, 2:19 p.m., 919 Vermont Street: Officer Lim and Field Training Officer Johnson responded to a call regarding four males spraying graffiti on a stone wall. The officers arrived, detained the four suspects, and upon investigation found that one of them had an outstanding arrest warrant. During a search of the suspect prior to his being taken to the Bayview Station the officers found a clear baggie of white powder, which subsequently was tested and confirmed to be cocaine. The subject was placed under arrest for the warrant and the cocaine



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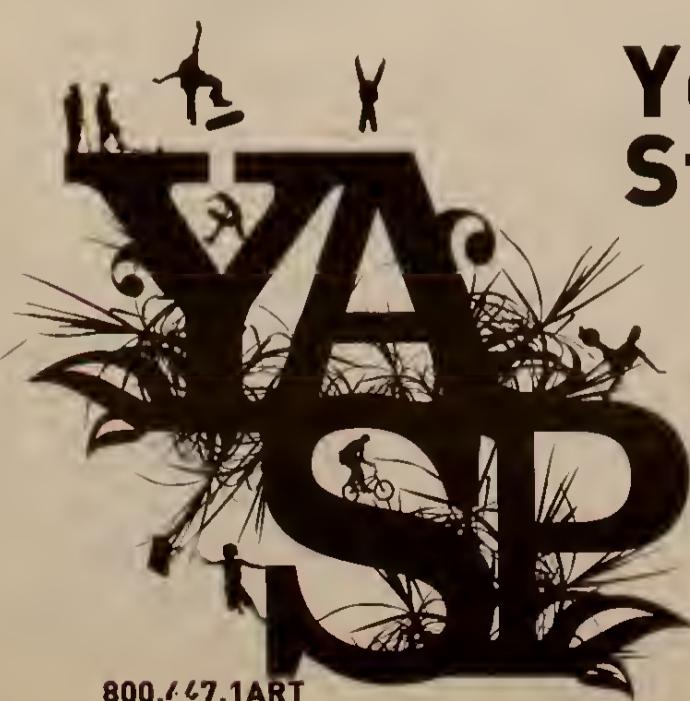
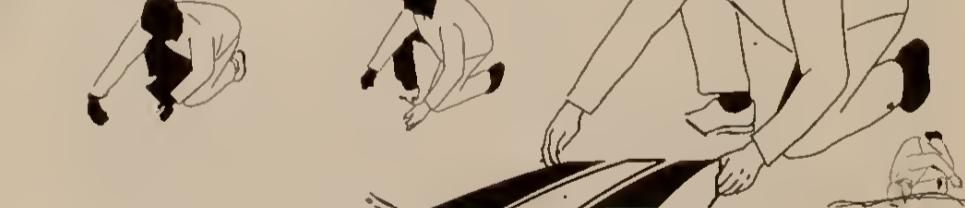
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# GETTING INVOLVED



**Dogpatch Neighborhood Association** usually meets the second Tuesday of each even-numbered month. The next meeting is **April 8**, at Sundance Coffee on Third Street at 20th Street from 7 to 9 p.m.

**Potrero Boosters** meets the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. (social time begins at 6:30 p.m.) in the wheelchair-accessible Game Room of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. For more information, visit [www.potrero boosters.org](http://www.potrero boosters.org) or contact President Tony Kelly at 341.8040 or [president@potrero boosters.org](mailto:president@potrero boosters.org). Next meeting: **March 25**, 7 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Association of Merchants & Businesses (PHAMB)** meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, corner of Connecticut and 18th streets. Visit [www.potrero hill.biz](http://www.potrero hill.biz) or call 341.8949. Next meeting: **March 11**, 10 a.m.

**Bayview Police Station Captain's Community Meeting** is held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Bayview Police Station Community Room at 201 William Street. Access can be gained by entering through the Newhall Street door. Next meeting: **March 4**, 6 p.m.

**Potrero Hill Democratic Club** meets the First Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. For more information, call 648.6740, [www.PHDemClub.org](http://www.PHDemClub.org). Next Meeting: **March 4**. This month: PHDC hosts state senate debate, all four declared Democratic candidates are scheduled to appear.

**Starr King Openspace Board of Directors** meets the third Tuesday of each odd-numbered month at 7p.m. at the Potrero Branch Library, 1616 20th Street. **Volunteer for Park** work days continue every month on the third Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 810.4900. Next meeting: **March 18**. Next Volunteer Day: **March 15**.

**Potrero Hill Garden Club** usually meets the last Sunday of the month at 11 a.m. for a potluck lunch in a local home or garden. Discussions are held on subjects related to organic, edible, or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's microclimate. Call 648.6740 for details.



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**Lent & Easter Schedule**  
Stations of the Cross, Friday, March 7, 14 & 21 @ 1pm

#### Liturgy of Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 15, 4:15pm Mass Sunday, March 16, 10:00am Mass

#### Holy Thursday

March 20, 7:30pm Mass

#### Liturgy of Good Friday

March 21, 12:15 to 3pm

#### Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

March 22, 7:30pm

#### Easter Sunday

March 23, 10:00am

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# & ENTERTAINMENT

March 2008

## March

### Theater: *Blade to the Heat*

Thick Description, Potrero Hill's professional theater, launches its 20th anniversary season of revivals with Oliver Mayer's *Blade to the Heat*. The play captures the sensual action of boxing and music in a tale about the multiple conflicts of love, prejudice, athletic glory and humiliation. "Enormously convincing fight scenes and emotional distress. Oliver Mayer's play script delves deeply into the psyche of human eroticism ... and, if you like action, the staging by [Tony] Kelly is dynamic," according to Albert Goodwyn, SF Bay Times. Tickets \$15 to \$30. Thursdays to Sundays at 8 p.m. 1695 18th Street, near Carolina. Information: [www.thickhouse.org](http://www.thickhouse.org).

### Community: Civic Duty

Ever wanted to serve on a grand jury? Here's your chance! The San Francisco Civil Grand Jury – the people's watch dog – is looking for a diverse group of intelligent, informed, and curious citizens to serve for a year, starting July 1. Volunteers need to be able to devote 10 or more hours a week to help ensure that local government is honest and dependable. Information: Gary Giubbini, 551.3605; [www.sfgov.org/site/courts](http://www.sfgov.org/site/courts).

## March 2

### Farley's: Mark Faigenbaum exhibit

Artist of the Month Mark Faigenbaum, a mixed media artist and printmaker, co-hosts a reception with his wife, Jeanne Storck, featuring a collection of found photos. 2 to 4 p.m., Farley's, 1315 18th Street. Information: 648.1545.

## March 4

### Politics: Debate for Senate

California Senate District Three candidates Carole Migden, Mark Leno, Joe Alioto Veronese and Joe Nation will debate the issues and tell you why you should vote for them. Moderated by Goat Hill Pizza's Philip De Andrade. 7 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House 953 DeHaro Street. Information: 826.8080.

## March 6

Community: University of California, San Francisco, Mission Bay Meeting Meeting topics include an overview of the design and construction process for the neurosciences research building, to be located at Fourth Street and Gene Friend Way; and an update on implementation of the planning principles adopted by the UCSF Mission Bay Community Task Force in January. 6 to 8 p.m., UCSF Mission Bay Campus, Genentech Hall, Room N-114, 600 16th Street. Information: Barbara Bagot-López, Associate Director of UCSF Community Relations, [bblopez@cgr.ucsf.edu](mailto:bblopez@cgr.ucsf.edu) or 476.8318.

## March 6

### Community: Merchant Mixer

If you're a neighborhood merchant come to Mission Rock to mingle with your fellow business owners for an evening of networking, fine food and libations. 6 to 8 p.m., Mission Rock, 817 Terry Francois Blvd.

## March 6-20

### Theater: *Romeo & Juliet and Other Duets*

Veteran actors Deborah Gwinn and Jim Cave perform in *Romeo & Juliet and Other Duets*, a stroll along the "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" as re-envisioned through the works of William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Eugene Ionesco. Tickets \$15-35. 8 p.m., The Marsh, 1062 Valencia Street. Information: [www.themarsh.org](http://www.themarsh.org).

## March 8

### Fair: Summer Resource Fair

Parents are invited to the Summer Resource Fair, where information about hundreds of summer camps, classes, activities and services for children will be provided. Free, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Concourse Exhibition Center, Eighth and Brannan Streets. Information: [www.dcfy.org](http://www.dcfy.org)

### Community: *Swing into Spring*

"Swing into Spring" with the Friends of Potrero Hill Nursery School's fabulously festive fundraiser. This fun and inexpensive night out includes sumptuous food and wine bar libations from many fine neighborhood eateries and an amazing selection of silent auction items, including original art, massage, classes, and vacation getaways. Dance to the rollicking good tunes of The Blue Wolves and musical headliners The Shut-Ins. Your good time supports the school's teachers and students as they move to a new home this summer. Tickets \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. 6:30 to 10 p.m., Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street. Information: 624.5047; [sfwriters@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sfwriters@sbcglobal.net).

## March 13

### Concert: Bhi Bhiman

Hinju Records and Café Du Nord present singer/songwriter Bhi Bhiman in concert. With reviews in some of the region's top publications, Bhiman is steadily gaining recognition as an intriguing and engaging songwriter. In his debut full length record, *The Cookbook*, Bhiman departs from the solo acoustic style for which he is best known. Tracked by the Fillmore's front-of-house engineer Nathan Harlow, *The Cookbook* achieves an authentic yet diverse sound that's reminiscent of classic records by innovators like Nina Simone, Brian Wilson, and Robbie Robertson. Tickets \$10. 8 p.m., Café Du Nord, 2174 Market Street, Information: 861-5016. [www.myspace.com/bhimbhiman](http://www.myspace.com/bhimbhiman).

## March 13-23

### Film: *Pierre-Pierrot*

Potrero Hill filmmaker Nith Lacroix will premiere *Pierre-Pierrot*, a story about two Laotian twins who were separated during the Vietnam War, at the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival (SFIAAFF). Separated by war and kept apart by circumstance – Pierrot remained in Laos while Pierre fled to France – they find reconciliation through the lens of a camera. The

26th annual SFIAAFF features more than 130 films and videos from the United States and around the world. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro Street; Clay Theatre, 2261 Fillmore Street; Sundance Cinemas Kabuki, 1881 Post Street; Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way in Berkeley, and the Camera 12 Cinemas, 201 South Second Street in San Jose. Information: [www.asianamericanmedia.org](http://www.asianamericanmedia.org).

## March 14

### Science: Pi Day

From San Francisco to New York, in museums, universities, classrooms and in the privacy of one's own home, (and of course on Second Life), people are celebrating Pi. It's the 20th anniversary of the celebration of Pi Day, an international holiday born at San Francisco's Exploratorium. Pi Day celebrations culminate, appropriately enough, on March 14 at 1:59 p.m.. That's the third month, the 14<sup>th</sup> day, at 1:59 p.m., corresponding to the first six digits of Pi. As an added bonus, March 14 is Albert Einstein's birthday. Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; [www.exploratorium.org](http://www.exploratorium.org).

## March 17

### Farley's: St. Patty's Day Celebration

Farley's Cafe celebrates their 19th Anniversary on St. Patrick's Day. In the morning, catch the live Irish music, plus surprises and treats! Farley's, 1315 18<sup>th</sup> Street. Information: 648.1545.

## March 21-29

### Theater: Carino, *Economy of the Heart*

Anne Bluethenthal's latest work explores in movement, text, music and visual art the psycho-physical, cultural and global dimensions of caring. The strong, sensual physicality of the ABD ensemble blends with the complex, compelling music of Ajayi Lumumba; the impassioned tones and lyrics of Melanie DeMore and Mama CoAtl; the entrancing poetry of Judy Grahn; and the vibrant art of muralist Nadine Gay. Tickets \$25. 8 p.m.,

Project Artaud Theater, 450 Florida Street. Information: 706.9535; [www.abdproductions.com](http://www.abdproductions.com).

## March 26

### Film: *Jews in Space*

The San Francisco Jewish Film Festival presents *Jews in Space*, Gabriel Lichtmann's Argentine comic drama. The film captures the eclectic realities of a Jewish family in contemporary Argentina, portraying the dynamic impact reunions, such as Passover, can have on family members. Characters include three jealous sisters, a suicidal grandfather, a kleptomaniac niece, and Santiago, who's in love with his cousin. Tickets \$8. 7:30 p.m., Yerba Buena Center, 701 Mission Street. Information: 978.2787; [www.sffjff.org](http://www.sffjff.org).

### Comedy: Intro to Stand-up Comedy

If you ever thought you were funny, you were absolutely right! This free introductory workshop explains exactly what we mean. The workshop features a tool called the Joke Diagram, a proven formula that illustrates the structure of every joke or funny story you've ever heard. Also covered is an overview of the workshops offered through the San Francisco Comedy College, including the infamous Performance Workshop, a six-week series that ends with you taking the microphone at The Clubhouse proving what you already know is true: you're funny! 6 p.m., San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason Street. Information: 921.2051; email [RichSFCC@yahoo.com](mailto:RichSFCC@yahoo.com).

## March 27-30

### Art: Jess Curtis/Gravity exhibit

Jess Curtis/Gravity presents the third in its biannual presentations of international collaborative projects. This year Curtis and company present two new works, each part of a larger project entitled The Symmetry Project. Symmetry Study #7 is a duet with Italian performer/Choreographer Maria Francesca Scaroni, examining the relationship of two naked bodies in space and time. Assymetrical

Continued on Page 21



Thick Description showcases Oliver Mayer's *Blade to the Heat*.

**A&E***Continued from Page 20*

Tendencies is the world premiere of a new work for the Croi Glan Integrated Dance Company from Cork Ireland. Tickets \$18 to \$20. 8 p.m., Counterpulse, 1310 Mission Street. Information: [www.jesscurtisgravity.org](http://www.jesscurtisgravity.org) 800.838.3006.

**March 29****Lecture: Physics of the Impossibility**

Dr. Michio Kaku, co-founder of String Field Theory, makes a mind-bending presentation about the science behind starships, parallel universes and other fantastic phenomena. He'll discuss the role of nanotechnology in learning to simulate invisibility and explain why NASA envisions sending fleets of nano ships to the stars, and how nanotechnology may play a key role in eventually escaping the death of the universe itself. 1 p.m., Exploratorium, 3601 Lyon Street. Information: 563.7337; [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu).



Jess Curtis/Gravity exhibit at Counterpulse.

**Kids: Coastal Camp Open House**

Coastal Camp is a summer day camp in Sausalito for grades one to nine that's all about fun, friends, and the great outdoors. The Marin-based nonprofit is presenting a one-day open house with family oriented naturalist-led hikes, crafts, and outdoor activities in the Marin Headlands. Explore their state of the art science and marine labs, and enter a raffle to win a free week of Coastal Camp Free! 1 to 4 p.m., Golden Gate National

Recreation Area, Building 1033, Sausalito, CA 94965. Information: [www.coastalcamp.org](http://www.coastalcamp.org)..

**March 29-30****Art: Herbert Wasserman**

A retrospective exhibit of paintings and wooden constructions available for purchase by the late Potrero Hill artist Herbert Wasserman, 1925-2003, will be displayed at his former studio. After attending the Art Students League in New York and the Academe

de la Grand Chaumiere in Paris, Wasserman arrived in San Francisco in 1952. He was a North Beach resident during the Beat Period, and the owner of the original Triangle Gallery on Columbus Avenue, where works by himself, Walter Kuhlman, Elmer Bischoff, and Richard Diebenkorn, among others, were featured. Wasserman moved to Potrero Hill in 1962, where he maintained a studio on Rhode Island Street, then Vermont

Street, and finally at his Missouri Street residence. His painting has been described as having a quality of "gritty vitality" by the late art critic Thomas Allbright. Noon to 5 p.m., 327 Missouri Street. Information: [wassermanretrospective@gmail.com](mailto:wassermanretrospective@gmail.com).

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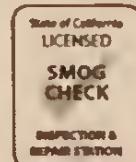
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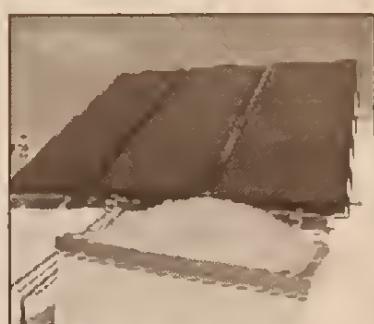


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